

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau(43) International Publication Date
16 October 2003 (16.10.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 03/084428 A2

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: A61F
(21) International Application Number: PCT/IL03/00256
(22) International Filing Date: 27 March 2003 (27.03.2003)
(25) Filing Language: English
(26) Publication Language: English
(30) Priority Data:
148994 4 April 2002 (04.04.2002) IL

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(IL).(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU,
CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH,
GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC,
LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW,
MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD,
SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US,
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KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),
Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE,
ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO,
SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM,
GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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Published:

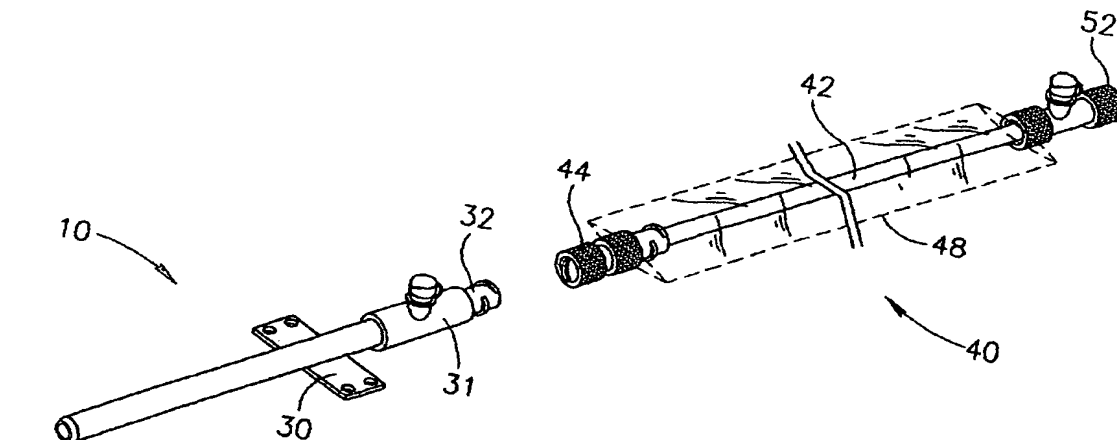
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(54) Title: IMPROVED INTRAVENOUS CATHETER ASSEMBLY



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(57) Abstract: A self-contained sterile catheter apparatus for use with an intravenous cannula element. The cannula element has first and second ends and a bore formed therebetween, and is configured for transcutaneous positioning such that the first end is adapted to protrude from a limb of a subject and the second end is brought into communication with an interior of a body organ of a subject. The self-contained sterile catheter apparatus includes first and second ends and a flexible catheter tube therebetween, the catheter tube having a predetermined length and a diameter adapted for slidable insertion through the bore of the intravenous cannula element into the subject, and an integral sterile environment containment element thereby to allow insertion of the catheter tube through the cannula element into the subject in a generally non-sterile environment.